

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

April 23, 2015
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Beth Burnam, Hamilton County
Jim Catron, City of Madison
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Rick Davis, Madison County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
Jason Holifield, Dixie County
Bill Hunter, White Springs
Doug Jones, City of Archer
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Patricia Patterson, Taylor County
Everett Phillips, Columbia County
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
DeLoris Roberts, City of Hawthorne
Larry Sessions, Suwannee County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
James Tallman, Union County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Daniel Webb, Union County
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

Ginger Travers

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT

Carlos Herd, Suwannee River Water Management
District

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville
Craig Carter, City of Gainesville
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Ken Cornell, Alachua County
Jason Evans, City of High Springs
Scarlet Frisina, Columbia County
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County
Timothy Marden, City of Newberry
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
David Sullivan, City of Perry
Helen Warren, City of Gainesville
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville
Mike Williams, Madison County

OTHERS PRESENT

Tim Bennett
Sandra Buck-Camp
Susan Davenport
Diana Davis
Glenn Hunter

STAFF PRESENT

Steven Dopp
Carmelita Franco
Scott Koons
Jean Strong

Board Members names are bolded
Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Spooner called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Wilford and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Spooner stated that there was a quorum.

Chair Spooner welcomed and introduced Tim Bennett, City Manager from the City of Madison; Glenn Hunter, Columbia County Economic Development Director and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee member; Sandra Buck-Camp member of the Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board; and Diana Davis, wife of Council member Louis Davis.

II. GUEST SPEAKER - Susan Davenport, Vice-President for Economic Development
Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Susan Davenport, Vice-President for Economic Development from the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Davenport gave a presentation on concerning economic development initiatives in Gainesville and surrounding areas. Chair Spooner thanked Ms. Davenport for her comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 26, 2015

Chair Spooner asked that the minutes of the March 26, 2015 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Commissioner Roberts made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2015 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Monthly Financial Report - March 2015
- B. Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Concerning Regional Economic Modeling, Inc.
- C. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Appointment for Andrew Singer

Chair Spooner asked if there were any questions regarding any of the items on the Consent Agenda and requested that these items be approved.

ACTION: Commissioner Wilford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Catron, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Introduction of New Member

Chair Spooner introduced new Council member, Mayor Doug Jones from the City of Archer.

- A. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation
Alana McKay
Jerry Pratter

ACTION: Commissioner Roberts made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, to approve the Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation for the past services for Alana McKay and Jerry Pratter. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Executive Committee - Proclamation Declaring May 2-10, 2015 as
Travel and Tourism Week

Mr. Koons stated that the Original Florida Tourism Task Force was created as a task force of the Council 23 years ago. It is now a 11-county independent tourism marketing interlocal agreement organization. The mission of the Original Florida Tourism Task Force is to "promote the natural, historic, and cultural attractions of the north central Florida region to increase the number of visitors and extend their stay." Mr. Koons further stated that the week of May 2-10, 2015 is *National Travel and Tourism Week* as declared by the Travel Industry Association. He also stated that to support and celebrate the tourism industry, the Executive Committee recommended that the Council adopt a proclamation, which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes, declaring the week of May 2-10, 2015 as Travel and Tourism Week in north central Florida.

ACTION: Councilman Bryant made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Roberts, to adopt the proclamation which is attached to these minutes declaring the week of May 2-10, 2015 as Travel and Tourism Week in north central Florida which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

- B. Clearinghouse Committee

Chair Sandra Haas, gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. She stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening and reviewed three local government comprehensive plan amendments.

- #40 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Draft Amendment
- #41 - Suwannee County Comprehensive Draft Amendment
- #42 - City of Archer Comprehensive Draft Amendment

She noted that the Committee finds that the local government comprehensive plans, as amended, are not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjoining local governments. Ms. Haas also stated that the Committee recommends forwarding these findings to the respective local governments, and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Patterson to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning #40 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Draft Amendment, #41 - Suwannee County Comprehensive Draft Amendment and 42 - City of Archer Comprehensive Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Regional Planning Committee - Evaluation and Appraisal Report of
North Central Florida Regional Planning Policy Plan

Commissioner Burnam, Regional Planning Committee Vice-Chair, reported that, every five years the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is required by State law to prepare an Evaluation and Appraisal Report on its regional plan. She also stated that the Report is due by the end of 2015.

Commissioner Burnam reported that the purpose of an Evaluation and Appraisal Report is to evaluate the successes and failures of the regional plan and to identify possible future amendments, revisions or updates to the plan. She also stated that to report serves as a basis for future amendments to the regional plan.

Commissioner Burnam stated that the Regional Planning Committee met tonight and continued its review of the regional plan focusing on the Emergency Preparedness Element of the Regional Plan

VII. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Carlos Herd, Suwannee River Water Management District, reported that Water Management District is monitoring the water resources bill, Senate Bill 918 being considered by the Legislature.

VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the 11 regional planning councils. The Association strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives. He stated that the accomplishments of the Association's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Sheri Coven, are reported each month to the Council. He also highlighted several of the accomplishments listed in the March 2015 monthly review report included in the Council meeting packet.

B. Chamber Scorecard

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. The Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to develop a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan. He further stated that the Scorecard reports metrics for each of the Six Pillars benchmarked to the other 49 states. The Six Pillars are Talent Supply and Education, Innovation and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness, Civic and Governance Systems and Quality of Life and Quality Places. He reviewed the April 2015 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2015 Legislative Session convened on March 3, 2015 and is scheduled to adjourn on May 1, 2015. He reported that Senate Bill 1216 had passed the Senate. The bill includes the provisions concerning regional planning councils formerly contained in Senate Bill 484 by Senator Simpson and deletes certain references to regional planning councils in state statutes. He also reported that the House of Representatives passed Senate Bill 1216 on First Reading. In addition, he reported Senate Bill 1216 also included the provisions formerly contained in Senate Bill 562 by Senator Simpson that would have new proposed developments that would qualify as developments of regional impact only be subject to the state coordinated review process for comprehensive plan amendments as well as Senate Bill 832 by Senator Simpson that would reduce the amount of information required by an applicant submitting a long-range master plan for a sector plan.

D. Check Fraud Status Report

Mr. Koons reported that on March 20, 2013, a fraudulent check in the amount of \$49,523.00 that was written on the Council's bank account was processed and paid by Wells Fargo. Also on March 20, 2013, Council staff filed an affidavit of check fraud concerning this matter with Wells Fargo. On March 25, 2013, Council staff filed a crime report concerning this matter with the Gainesville Police Department. On April 18, 2013, the Council Attorney sent a letter to Wells Fargo requesting that Wells Fargo remit to the Council within 30 days the unauthorized \$49,523.00 released by Wells Fargo from the Council's account. He added that on June 3, 2013, attorneys for Wells Fargo responded via letter stating that Wells Fargo will not reimburse the Council for the \$49,523.00 released from the Council's account by Wells Fargo.

Mr. Koons stated that at their meeting on July 25, 2013, the Council authorized the Council Attorney to file a lawsuit against Wells Fargo to recover the unauthorized \$49,523.00, to engage Stanley Cushman from the law firm of Scruggs and Carmichael to serve as co-counsel for the lawsuit and to designate Scott Koons, Executive Director, as the Council's representative concerning all matters related to such lawsuit. He stated that on August 6, 2013, a lawsuit was filed against Wells Fargo to recover the Council's funds.

Mr. Koons further reported that on September 9, 2013, Wells Fargo responded to the complaint by filing a Motion to Compel Arbitration. Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman responded to the motion stating that arbitration does not apply to the dispute and have filed a motion for a hearing on the motion to compel arbitration. A hearing originally scheduled for October 30, 2013 in the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Alachua County, Florida on the Motion to Compel Arbitration filed by Wells Fargo to resolve the dispute between the Council and Wells Fargo was rescheduled for January 24, 2014. Mr. Koons reported that at the conclusion of the hearing, the Circuit Court granted the Motion to Compel Arbitration.

Mr. Koons reported that a letter was sent to Wells Fargo on May 13, 2014 requesting additional information concerning the disputed check. On September 24, 2014 a Notice of Arbitration and Statement of Claim was filed with the American Arbitration Association by Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman on behalf of the Council. On October 14, 2014 attorneys from Wells Fargo filed a Respondent's Answering Statement to the Statement of Claim.

Council Attorney Wershow reported that an agreement has been reached with Wells Fargo concerning a mutually acceptable arbitrator, Robert Cowles from Jacksonville, FL. He further reported that a preliminary arbitration conference was held on February 2, 2015 and that the parties have agreed to schedule the arbitration hearing for May 11, 2015 in Gainesville.

Mr. Koons reported that a press release was sent to state and regional news media on March 3, 2015 concerning the fraudulent check matter.

Chair Spooner informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on May 28, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.



Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

5/28/15

Date



PROCLAMATION

DECLARING MAY 2-10, 2015 AS TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

WHEREAS, tourism brings over 97 million visitors annually to the State of Florida, generates over \$4.6 billion in annual sales tax revenues and employs over 1.1 million persons;

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council recognizes the importance of tourism to the north central Florida regional economy and quality of life;

WHEREAS, local governments, tourist development councils and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council support tourism opportunities in north central Florida; and

WHEREAS, local governments, businesses, chambers of commerce, visitors bureaus, tourist development councils and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council are working together to support this vital part of north central Florida's economy and all who play a role in tourism to ensure that north central Florida continues to be a place where traditions will be created and continued for years to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby declares the week of May 2-10, 2015 as Travel and Tourism Week throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 23rd day of April 2015.

ATTEST:

Rick Davis, Secretary-Treasurer

Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

SEAL: